

Message

What you need to know to start your day.

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Environment & Energy Report
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To: Bertrand, Charlotte
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Climate-Friendly Republicans
for Carbon Tax

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Democrats Court Climate-Friendly Republicans for Carbon Tax



By [Susan Bruninga](#)

Supporters of a carbon tax are working hard to sell their idea that big polluters should pay for the climate-warming gases that they put into the air. But Republican members of Congress, even those who admit that action is needed to control rising temperatures, will have a hard time getting on board, especially on a divisive issue like climate change.

- Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) is hoping to woo at least one Republican and says several have told him they are considering it. Among those being courted are Sens. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), who says he'll look at options to reduce carbon, Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), who has supported a small carbon tax to support research on cleaner-burning fossil fuels, and Susan Collins (R-Maine), who is generally supportive of environmental initiatives.

- Coons may also have a hard time convincing those on the left wing of the Democratic party because the tax would be less ambitious than a major investment in low-carbon energy and infrastructure.

OREGON'S REP. BONAMICI CALLS FOR BOLD CLIMATE ACTION

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.) has already observed damaging environmental changes at home—like the change in seawater chemistry that is harming her state's shellfish industry. As a member of Congress, she's hoping to do something about it, Maya Goldman writes in a profile.



Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.) speaks at ARTSSPEAK Policy Forum 2016 at the Philadelphia Art Museum during the Democratic National Convention on July 26, 2016.
 Photographer: Lisa Lake/Getty Images for NAMM

- Seeing ocean acidification's effect on industry led her to sponsor the COAST (Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats) Research Act (H.R. 1237), a measure that funds research and passed the House June 5 with bipartisan support.
- She's also a supporter of the Green New Deal, was appointed to the House climate select committee, and cosponsored the Climate Action Now Act (H.R. 9), which would force the Trump administration to remain in the Paris climate agreement.
- State Republicans say she used to be more moderate but is now moving to the left on issues such as the environment.

WHAT ELSE WE'RE WATCHING

- The Food and Drug Administration announced that two more cosmetics products have been found to contain asbestos. The agency updated a safety alert it originally issued March 5. Beauty Plus Global and Claire's Stores Inc., which produced the products, have recalled them, the FDA said.
- Many in the legal world are closely watching a lawsuit from a group of children who are suing the federal government over climate change. But as

Abby Smith says in Bloomberg Environment's latest [Parts Per Billion](#) podcast, these kids have a long way to go before they get a full hearing.

- President Donald Trump signed a [bill](#) (H.R. 2157) Thursday that allocates more than \$19 billion to communities affected by recent hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters. It includes a provision extending the National Flood Insurance Program's authorization for another four months; it was set to expire at the end of next week. This is the latest in a string of around a dozen short-term extensions of this financially troubled federal program over the past two years.
- The House oversight committee holds a [field hearing](#) in Laguna, Calif., on the role of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in ensuring reactor safety and the safe management and disposal of nuclear waste. Sylvia Carignan will be listening in.

INSIGHTS

[Ten Ways Machine Learning Will Transform the Practice of Law](#)

Law firms are increasingly using machine learning and artificial intelligence, which have become standard in document review. Dorsey & Whitney's Caroline Sweeney says any firm that wants to stay competitive should get on board now and gives examples for use and best practices.

DAILY RUNDOWN

Top Stories

[Border Wall Threatens Sacred Springs, Plants, Animals, Tribe Says](#)

An American Indian tribe that shares 62 miles of America's southern border with Mexico says construction on President Trump's embattled border wall would irreparably harm important natural and cultural resources for its people.

[Canada Considers Near-Total Ban on Chlorpyrifos Pesticide](#)

Canada is considering a near-total ban on agricultural uses of chlorpyrifos, one of the most widely used insecticides in the country.

Energy

[In Quest for Bigger Batteries, California Mulls Century-Old Idea](#)

As the sun sets on California's solar farms, a backup energy source deep in the Sierra Nevada Mountains springs to life.

[Enbridge Sues to Keep Michigan Oil and Gas Tunnel Deal Alive](#)

Staring down the barrel of a lawsuit from Michigan's attorney general, Enbridge

Inc. announced it will sue first to save its proposal for an oil and gas pipeline that burrows beneath Lake Michigan.

Environment

Honeybees Don't Need to Be 'Saved' (Podcast)

When you think of a bee, what are the first images and sounds that come to mind? Fuzzy yellow; black stripes; little antennae; and a humming buzz.

New York State Pension Weighs Climate Change in Investments

New York state's \$210.2 billion pension fund could go as far as divesting from companies that fail to address climate risks, according to a long-term plan released June 6 by state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli (D).

TODAY'S EVENTS

- **7:15 a.m. • Climate** • Environmental Business Council of New England holds Climate Adaptation Forum in Boston.
- **Noon • Low-Carbon Fuels** • Environmental Law Institute holds webcast forum in Seattle on low-carbon fuels in the Pacific Northwest.
- **11:30 (PDT) • Nuclear Waste** • House oversight committee holds a hearing on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the safe management and storage of nuclear waste.

AROUND THE WEB

- The Arkansas Supreme Court is reviving part of Monsanto Co.'s lawsuit over the state's ban of an herbicide that farmers said had drifted onto their crops and caused widespread damage. The justices said the company's challenge of the dicamba ban was moot since new regulations of the herbicide have been adopted, but it upheld the dismissal of other parts of the suit.
- The Democratic National Committee is saying no to a presidential debate focused on climate change, much to the chagrin of candidate and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who's made the issue a centerpiece of his campaign. Inslee called the decision "extremely disappointing," adding that the committee told him it would ban any candidates who participate in a climate debate from future DNC debates.
- An Australian policy paper outlines a doomsday scenario for humans without serious measures to address climate change. Irreversible damage could be done to global climate systems by 2050, resulting in a world of

chaos where political panic is the norm and we face the end of civilization. "Climate change now represents a near- to mid-term existential threat to human civilisation," the [paper](#) says, calling for a new approach to climate-related security risk management.

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